

VIETNAM COURIER

Information Weekly — 5.0. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

May 5
1969
No. 215
6th Year

OUR FOREFATHERS

PHAM HUY THONG

Director, Institute of Archaeology,
State Committee of Social Sciences of Viet Nam
Vice President and Secretary General,
Society of Historical Sciences of Viet Nam

MYTH, legend, tradition, even quasi-modern invention — historians used to employ one of these terms when they spoke about the Hung kings, thought to be the founders and organizers of ancient Vietnamese nationality. They had no flair, but, let us concede it, they had an excuse: already our old historiographers had doubted the existence of such monarchs, lost in the fog of very remote times.

True, it sometimes happens that peoples, and not only peoples, lose even the memory of their Crosses. In our country, the small group of temples on Mount Nchia Cuong dedicated to the Hung kings is rather modest; besides, it is quite recent in its present aspect. And yet, since times immemorial, on the 10th day of the 3rd moon of each year (usually late April), crowds of pilgrims come to pay tribute to the ancestors of the nation.

Did those ancestors ever exist? One of the main achievements of young Vietnamese

archaeology has been to demonstrate in a definite way that, on that score, it was not the people but the scholars who were mistaken. The discovery in the last decade of a series of prehistoric knolls — nearly a hundred so far — at the very heart of the "kingdom" of Van Lang according to tradition has lifted the veil of mystery and settled the difference opposing popular faith to the weapons of scholarly criticism.

Again a victory of the regime? Just so. Chance, which has a role to play in scientific research, has been for nothing in this affair. When the eminent French orientalist Henri Maspero rejected the Hung kings into the sphere of fables, or fiction, he knew quite well — and said so — that many boxes of polished stone had been discovered here and there in provinces of the Red River delta. From this he had drawn the conclusion that Vietnamese in those remote times "knew how to till the land". This was not inaccurate, but the

idea did not occur to him, or to any other Western orientalist after him, that it could have been turned to better account. Was it due to any lack of science or imagination on his part? I don't think so. But he didn't believe the culture of a colonial people to be a priori capable, especially in such remote times, of rising very high.

Neither was the spirit of invention or knowledge lacking among the European archaeologists who scoured a Pontic origin to the Thanh Hoa bronze artifacts and the great Dong Son civilization — especially the Swede Olov Janse, who set the fashion for the U.S.-puppet cultural services in the occupied zone of South Vietnam. But they were inspired by the same racism.

As for us, pick and trowel in hand, we have gone in quest of our forefathers. We were not used to let ourselves be impressed by big names or by pure reasoning, and we shared our people's attachment to ancestral traditions and their

(Continued page 5)

NIXON'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

Page 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WARTIME NORTH VIET NAM

Page 3

Military Operations

South Viet Nam

— PLAF blast a huge ammo depot at Da Nang airfield and put 300 GI's of Tropic Lightning Division out of action at Ben Trai northwest of Saigon.

— Heavy enemy losses South of DMZ: 950 casualties, 67 military vehicles destroyed in 9 days.

North Viet Nam

Between April 27 and May 3, 4 unmanned spy planes were downed (three over Hanoi and one over Haiphong), bringing the total number of aircraft lost by the U.S. in North Viet Nam to **3,284**

PLAF fighters marching
up hill and down dale



NIXON'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

(Adapted from a commentary by QUAN DOI NHAN DAN — People's Army paper — on April 28, 1969)

IMMEDIATELY after his entry in the White House, Nixon had to grapple with a series of hard problems both internal and external. It is fair to say that unlike his predecessors, Nixon had little time after his race for president for relaxation and reflection over U.S. policy in the coming four years of his administration. The anti-U.S. wave of West European nations, the anger voiced by thousands and thousands of Americans, the too early re-election of Congress against Nixon's Viet Nam policy and his anti-missile system, the humiliating incident of the EC-47 spy plane shot down over North Korea, and more particularly the post-Tet offensives of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, all these have cast a dark shadow over Nixon's first hundred days. The numerous trips to and from Washington accomplished by Laird, Wheeler, Bunker Hunt and interminable meetings of the National Security Council and the special press conferences of Nixon himself filled either with digressions or embarrassment supplied unmistakable indications of the disorderly mood prevailing in Washington since Nixon's inauguration in the ruins of the State. Mention should also be made of the increasingly critical inflation, the recent action taken by the Peruvian government against the American oil companies, the decision to set up trade and diplomatic relations with a number of socialist countries, the withdrawal by neighbouring channels of their military commitment in the NATO and her planned recognition of the People's Republic of China. Such facts only added to the weakening of U.S. position as a major power in the "free world" and threatened even the quiet of its back yard.

Confronted with such a puzzling situation, Nixon could not keep silent for long as he had previously planned, and had to give some intimations of his policy which were only indicative of the unwelcome trend. Indeed this policy is apparently going counter to the interests of the Americans at home: it involves tax hikes, increase in the defence budget and the strengthening of the offensive machinery; in foreign affairs, it means the continuation of U.S. role as an international policeman and efforts to mend regional military alliances; as far as Viet Nam is concerned, it aims at pursuing the losing war of aggression by means of an alleged "Vietnamization" of the conflict, and at securing a "position of strength" in the quagmire of defeat.

NOTHING new can be found in Nixon's policy with relation to Johnson's. This is particularly true with Viet Nam. What may be new is only the fact that the situation has considerably worsened

now compared with the Johnson time: Firstly, the sad Viet Nam legacy inherited from Johnson has been burdened with new setbacks suffered by Abram's army at the hand of the enemy and further and bitter doubts in store for him. Secondly, Johnson has used up all tricks of U.S. imperialism, including "special warfare" and "limited war" in South Viet Nam and the strategy of war escalation against the North. He has also tested all sorts of tactics and weapons which have all proved utterly inefficient against the Vietnamese people's unrelenting resistance.

Thirdly, a mood of defeatism is now spreading among U.S. ruling circles following Johnson's strategic "back-down" moves which were the limitation of bombing, then the unconditional cessation of all air, naval and artillery bombardment against North Viet Nam, and the agreement to hold a quadripartite conference in Paris with NLF participation.

Fourthly, the American people were fed up with Johnson's promises which did not forge any Nixon's breach of promise. These promises he made when campaigning for U.S. president. Neither the withdrawal of troops nor the lead to the U.S. to new disasters.

True, Nixon is a prisoner of the above described situation. The present position of a battered adversary in a weakened position, at a loss for a suitable way to escape total defeat.

Nixon's First 100 Days Criminal War Escalation in South Viet Nam

The Commission for Investigation of the U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam has made public a statement some excerpts of which are given below.

On April 30, 1969, the U.S. National administration completed its 100 days in office. The tolerant period the American people reserved for a newly elected president has become 100 days of criminal escalation in Viet Nam.

"In South Viet Nam, in the past 100 days, the Nixon administration allocated an additional 150 million dollars to the equipping of the Saigon puppet government with 300 up-to-date F-4E type for the air-lifting of puppet troops to massacre the Vietnamese people, and a special credit of 258 million dollars for the modernization of the puppet troops' flights of B-57s. On April 7, 1969, in the U.S. News

THOSE are but some initial setbacks befalling Nixon in the first hundred days of his administration. If he continues obstinate in his Viet Nam war, there are no doubts further and bitter doubts in store for him.

Anxiety in already gripping the President and his closest aides. It is not fortuitous that Laird spoke with concern about the PLAF "boundless" capacity to mount offensives and that other U.S. officials are fearful of the growing difficulties and GI losses inflicted on the U.S. by the sweeping onsets of the Liberation forces in South Viet Nam.

The American press has forecast that in the coming days Nixon will be assailed by a new wave of opposition in Congress when the new budget will be presented for approval, and nobody is not aware that the American people are not in a comfortable majority and is resolved to control very strict terms of the expenditures proposed by the Pentagon and even all policies put forward by the President. Senator Fulbright recently hinted at a general re-appraisal of U.S. foreign policy and a quadripartite conference in Paris with NLF participation.

As far as they are concerned, the American people who showed no patience with Nixon during his first hundred days of the Presidency, are undoubtedly press even more vigorously for an end to the criminal war in Viet Nam. A new "hot summer" is due to set in throughout the United States.

WHAT was done by Nixon about Viet Nam in his first hundred days as President of the United States? This was dealt by Mr. Tran Bui Kiem and Mr. Xuan Thuy, respectively heads of the NLF and DRVN delegations at the 15th plenary session of the Paris Conference (April 30, 1969). They proved with irrefutable facts that Nixon had been pursuing the war of aggression in Viet Nam, pushing it to an unprecedented level of atrocity, and had caused the Paris Conference to stagnate, while public opinion was deceived by statements on so-called progress of the conference and "private talks" outside official meetings.

The Front's delegate exposed Nixon's "partial withdrawal" of U.S. troops and his "back-down" moves. What the U.S. president had in mind, he said, was to trick the DRVN chief negotiator went on, not only did the U.S. representatives refuse to withdraw totally and unconditionally U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and stick to their absurd proposals as "advisors". This was a concrete method within the framework of the "Vietnamization" of the war advocated by Nixon to play off Vietnamese against Vietnamese and achieve U.S. colonialist policy in South Viet Nam. "It takes more than the withdrawal of a few thousands or tens of thousands of American soldiers", said the NLF envoy, to show the good will of the United States. "It must rather agree to withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops, without posing any conditions whatsoever. In insisting on the mutual withdrawal of troops, the U.S. is only seeking a pretext to prolong the presence of its troops in South Viet Nam".

Mr. Tran Bui Kiem highlighted the tumultuous drive of urban masses in South Viet Nam for the replacement of the Thieu Ky-Hue puppet triumvirate by a peace cabinet ready to hold serious talks and resist U.S. aggression until victory, while stepping up the building of socialism in a way suitable to the new situation.

In his turn, Mr. Xuan Thuy laid emphasis on the numerous acts of war committed by the U.S. against North Viet Nam: recommissioning flights, air bombings (including B-52 bombings) and artillery bombardments from the 7th Fleet or from South of the Ben Hai River, indiscriminate pouring of thousands of tons of bombs and shells on populated areas from Vinh to Nghe An, and more and more deeply into the DRVN territory.

In Paris, the DRVN chief negotiator went on, not only did the U.S. representatives refuse to withdraw totally and unconditionally U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and stick to their absurd proposals as "advisors". This was a concrete method within the framework of the "Vietnamization" of the war advocated by Nixon to play off Vietnamese against Vietnamese and achieve U.S. colonialist policy in South Viet Nam. "It takes more than the withdrawal of a few thousands or tens of thousands of American soldiers", said the NLF envoy, to show the good will of the United States. "It must rather agree to withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops, without posing any conditions whatsoever. In insisting on the mutual withdrawal of troops, the U.S. is only seeking a pretext to prolong the presence of its troops in South Viet Nam".

On the occasion of the International Labour Day, Mr. Xuan Thuy conveyed his deep sympathy to the U.S. and world workers who were stepping up their actions against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and to end it by the Nixon administration.

centaries sprayed U.S.-made C-130 toxic chemicals over an area of Nui Dat, Ba Ria province. "The Saigon puppet government regularly broadcast anti-war songs and records, closed down over 20 newspapers, repressed student and intellectual protests. Reverend Thien Minh, detained over 50 members of the Buddhist youth and arrested among talking about peace, democracy, neutrality, and religious freedom of doctors, chemists, veterinarians, and medical, pharmaceutical and dental students. The Saigon puppet government also arrested and detained for the U.S., the basic problem remains that of achieving permanent South Viet Nam government control (i.e. South Viet Nam puppet administration) over the country.

With such provocative, aggressive and war intensified, the Nixon administration has revealed the hypocrisy of its will for peace."

Under the Nixon administration, the use of toxic chemicals has been greatly intensified. Australian mer-

Building and developing North Viet Nam's economy boils down to carrying on the laying of the material and technical foundations of socialism, continuing socialist industrialisation, steadily consolidating socialist production relations in a way called for by wartime conditions, stabilising the people's living standard and concurrently ensuring increased production, fighting to achieve combat preparedness while closely coordinating the satisfaction of the needs of the anti-imperialist fight with preparations for future set-up of socialist construction.

Reality has proved that this line is sound and has produced fruitful results. In the past 4 years, we have earmarked an important part of the capital investment in the building of the material and technical foundation of socialism, the shaping of local economy. This stems from the realisation of a people's war and in socialist industrialisation of an agriculturally backward country progressing straight to socialism without passing through the stage of capitalism. Each area (province and city) must be turned into a production, fighting, operational and logistical strategic unit.

Attention has been paid to the all-sided agricultural production, apart from rice culture. The growing of vegetables, subsidiary and industrial crops and animal breeding have increased annually; 1968 saw a 4.2 per cent rise in pig breeding over 1967 and was the peak year ever.

Relations of production in agricultural co-ops have been constantly strengthened. In 1968, 94.3 per cent of the peasant households joined the co-ops, with more than 92 per cent of them in high-level ones. The size and the material and technical bases of the co-ops have been constantly enlarged. Agricultural co-operation has transformed our country's small, scattered and backward production into a rather large, planned and gradually modernized production.

Remarkable has been the progress in engineering industry. The engineering network kept extending at all levels. In 1967 gross output value of the local engineering industry rose by 8.6 per cent compared with 1965. In 1968, it went up by 14.5 per cent over the previous year. This branch of industry has concentrated on producing small machines, power engines, in water pumps, improved hand carts, farm implements, machine tools and what not of equipment for a number of small-size local industrial installations. The equipment of agricultural co-ops with new mechanical devices has brought about a change for the better in the rural area. State farms helped them rapidly raise labour productivity and crop yields, with the result that a part of man-power used in agriculture has been shifted to industry, communications and transport, and fighting jobs.

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

PROCEEDING from the basic concept that North Viet Nam is the great rear base and the South the great frontline of the whole country, when the U.S. imperialists escalated the war into the North, the Viet Nam Workers' Party laid down the relevant political task for the North Vietnamese people, namely to simultaneously produce and defend the North Viet Nam, provide all-out support for the Southern people and resist U.S. aggression until victory, while stepping up the building of socialism in a way suitable to the new situation.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Economic Development in Wartime North Viet Nam

AGRICULTURE

THE task of agriculture is to concentrate efforts on solving the food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, and supply more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

INDUSTRY

FOR the development of the post-war Viet Nam, we have advocated active defence of existing establishments, their re-organisation and reconstruction, and the gearing up of their production capacity, and regarded them as the main source of supplies for production and the fighting; on the other hand, we have decided to concentrate efforts on stepping up the building of local industry with a host of small and scattered establishments so as to enable each province, in any circumstances, to satisfy to the maximum local needs with its own resources, first of all needs in means of production for agriculture, and communications and transport, and in consumer goods; at the same time adequate attention has been paid to the continued building of centrally-run industry with suitable measures and on an appropriate scale and where conditions permit a number of enterprises will receive additional equipment to expand their production.

Centrally-run industrial installations are under constant attack. But thanks to the strict implementation of the policy of evacuating production, protecting the factories and building shadow projects, many branches of engineering, electricity, coal, engineering, cotton fabrics, paper and sugar have been able to maintain production at a substantial level, successfully seeing to the most urgent needs of the fighting and production and a part of the needs of the population.

Besides centrally-run industry, the past years have also witnessed a significant turning point in the building and development of local industry. Step by

step, we have been setting up a comprehensive network of local industry in each province capable of reinforcing on the spot logistics, linking industry with agriculture and helping the new distribution of labour force in each area. In the past 4 years, the industrial production in the building of local industry has increased by 4 times compared with the 4 pre-war years (1947-1949). More than 1,000 state-run local industrial establishments and 2,000 co-operatives have been put into commission. In 1968, gross output value of state-run local industry grew by 9 per cent compared with 1964.

Remarkable has been the progress in engineering industry. The engineering network kept extending at all levels. In 1967 gross output value of the local engineering industry rose by 8.6 per cent compared with 1965. In 1968, it went up by 14.5 per cent over the previous year. This branch of industry has concentrated on producing small machines, power engines, in water pumps, improved hand carts, farm implements, machine tools and what not of equipment for a number of small-size local industrial installations. The equipment of agricultural co-ops with new mechanical devices has brought about a change for the better in the rural area. State farms helped them rapidly raise labour productivity and crop yields, with the result that a part of man-power used in agriculture has been shifted to industry, communications and transport, and fighting jobs.

The socialist market plays the leading role at all levels. In 1967 gross output value of the local engineering industry rose by 8.6 per cent compared with 1965. In 1968, it went up by 14.5 per cent over the previous year. This branch of industry has concentrated on producing small machines, power engines, in water pumps, improved hand carts, farm implements, machine tools and what not of equipment for a number of small-size local industrial installations. The equipment of agricultural co-ops with new mechanical devices has brought about a change for the better in the rural area. State farms helped them rapidly raise labour productivity and crop yields, with the result that a part of man-power used in agriculture has been shifted to industry, communications and transport, and fighting jobs.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

OVER the past years, communications and transport have been regarded as an extremely important emergency task of the entire Party and people. In spite of intensive enemy attacks, our communications and transport network has expanded rapidly and experienced an unprecedented growth.

With their wisdom, creativity and courage, our people and armed forces have overcome the shortcomings inherent in a country with many rivers and canals and poorly developed communications network with every means, modern and rudimentary, they have at their disposal. As a result, our communication arteries have been less disrupted and goods have been flowing to the frontline and to every corner of the country.

Over the U.S. war of destruction and the will war of destruction and will give a push to Saigon's plan for the advance towards socialism.

The people have largely contributed to the achievements of the communication and transport service. Maintenance teams set up by the people are available. Wherever there is a road, ready at all times to keep it open: they fill up bomb craters, repair bridges and roads, load and transport goods, and even light off enemy roads on communication lines.

PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD

IN goods circulation and distribution, we have decided to concentrate to the highest degree man-power and financial and material resources in fighting and defeating the U.S. aggressor while paying due attention to the people's living conditions, meeting their essential needs in food, clothing, health and education, and improving their well-being for the sake of increased production and long-term fighting.

Prompted by their ardent patriotism and their deep hatred for the U.S. imperialists, every year our people sell rice, meat and other products to the State in order to satisfy the needs of the people's living conditions, meeting their essential needs in food, clothing, health and education, and improving their well-being for the sake of increased production and long-term fighting.

The socialist market plays the leading role at all levels. In 1967 gross output value of the local engineering industry rose by 8.6 per cent compared with 1965. In 1968, it went up by 14.5 per cent over the previous year. This branch of industry has concentrated on producing small machines, power engines, in water pumps, improved hand carts, farm implements, machine tools and what not of equipment for a number of small-size local industrial installations. The equipment of agricultural co-ops with new mechanical devices has brought about a change for the better in the rural area. State farms helped them rapidly raise labour productivity and crop yields, with the result that a part of man-power used in agriculture has been shifted to industry, communications and transport, and fighting jobs.

Thanks to all these efforts, the people's standard of living remains relatively stable, and in some localities it has even improved in some respects.

Money and currency are in the main sound. On the basis of the turn-over of increased production, the people's living conditions have been improved and the revenue of the state budget.

THANKS to its sound line and policies, North Viet Nam's economy has been hurt by the U.S. war of destruction as the enemy expected and has instead been developing. The superiority of socialist economy and of the sound political and social regime have been demonstrated out in bold relief in the war. This constitutes an important factor which has contributed to our victory over the U.S. war of destruction and will give a push to Saigon's plan for the advance towards socialism.

Over the U.S. war of destruction and the will war of destruction and will give a push to Saigon's plan for the advance towards socialism.

Since mid-1965 when U.S. imperialism fully revealed its wicked nature as an aggressor and its henchmen, the ugly features as traitors, the war literature has run short of decent signboards to laud its praises on, and has thus been forced to concentrate on justifying the U.S. aggression and the puppet's treason.

BESIDE the reactionary and anti-national literature and art directly commissioned and disseminated by U.S.-puppet psywar organs, there is the *decadent literature and arts* subsidized and encouraged by them to propagate widely through the press, poems, fictions, dances, music and the theatre no less dangerous poisons for the mind. Decadent literature and arts is, in effect, a means to take man away from the social realities into the realm of oblivion and illusion.

Under the cover of such irresponsible and reactionary watchwords as "literature is not politics" and "literature is not morality", and in the name of realism they use the dirty and perfidious methods of existentialism to sow in the minds of the readers, especially the young generation, a pessimistic, weary outlook on life, an immoral and depraved way of life ruled by the sinister

bid literature and arts, an offspring of the rotten and monstrous regime which they are trying to maintain in South Viet Nam cities by means of bombs and shells.

Indeed, these so-called literary and arts movements have morally polluted South Viet Nam cities. But the raging flame of struggle of our people in both town and country and the great name

SEE IN OUR
U.S. PUPPE
AGGESSIO
SON. REAC
TOWNSPEO
VIET NAM.

SEE IN OUR NEXT:
U.S. -PUPPET POLITIC
AGGRESSION AND TR
SON. REACTION OF T
TOWNSPEOPLE IN SOU
VIET NAM.

present, for us Vietnamese archaeologists, is to undertake such studies. Historians, philologists, linguists, folklorists, ethnologists, anthropologists and even agronomists, biologists, metallurgists, physicists, chemists... all have pledged their help, all want to bring their contribution to this common enterprise.

original features and the strength of our national traditions, our relationships with our neighbours in remote times, the specificity of our social, economic and political regime in relation to the general situation of the Asian mode of production, our contribution to the elucidation of that important Marxist theoretical concept. Lastly, it is fascinating not because, on the strength of archaeological documents analysed ever more in depth, we see coming to life—and who life!—the immense treasures of our stories and legends of times past; the child of Phu Dong who grew up miraculously and cleared the native land of foreign invaders; the rebellious elephants which got its neck twisted by the god of the waters, f-amin; but eventually tamed... However

This has been shown at two scientific conferences recently held, at a few months' interval and with promising success, by the Institute of Archaeology in collaboration with other scientific bodies. The undertaking is a bold one, arduous as well as complex, but I am convinced that the synthesis of

The congress expressed sincere thanks to the South Viet Nam NHU, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (DRVN), the people at home as well as overseas Vietnamese, and all organizations, for their warm greetings on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Alliance. It voiced profound gratitude to the DRVN Government and people for their unstinted assistance to the South Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggression. It also showed heartfelt gratitude to all progressives in the world and in the U.S. as well for their wholehearted support to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

our efforts could be but a fruitful one. For fervour is in us. We have the deep conviction of doing useful work and, while serving science, of paying deserved tribute to our forefathers, to the nation. The interest shown by our leaders to our work and the unflinching attention with which our compatriots including those in the South, are following it, are for us the best encouragement and the surest guarantee of success.

VET NAM AND THE WORLD

DRVN GOVERNMENT SCORES U.S. ESPIONAGE AND PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST DPRK

(Full text of DRVN government statement on April 26, 1969)

On April 15, 1969, a large-size reconnaissance plane of the EC-121 type of the U.S. imperialists flew a hostile espionage mission on the air space of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and was shot down by the DPRK air force.

In spite of their setback, the U.S. ruling circles have been keeping up their hostile activities against the DPRK. U.S. President Nixon has arrogantly declared that the U.S. would continue reconnaissance flights over the DPRK with armed escort by the "Special Strike Force 71".

As known to all, since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement, the U.S. imperialists have been occupying South Korea, stepping up their preparations for a war of aggression, and mounting repeated military provocations against the DPRK.

Scores of the U.S. imperialists' intelligence planes in the airspace of the DPRK, the setting up of the "Special

Strike Force 71" and continued reconnaissance flights over the DPRK constitute brazen violations of international law and of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement, gross encroachments upon the sovereignty and security of the DPRK, and a grave threat to peace in Asia and the world. This brazen and adventurist step of the U.S. imperialists is nothing short of an insolent challenge to the peoples in the socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN fully support the legitimate position of the Government of the DPRK expounded in its statement of April 23, 1969, which firmly insisted that the U.S. government stop at once all its military provocations against the DPRK and withdraw all foreign troops from South Korea.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN fully support the legitimate position of the Government of the DPRK expounded in its statement of April 23, 1969, which firmly insisted that the U.S. government stop at once all its military provocations against the DPRK and withdraw all foreign troops from South Korea.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN fully support the legitimate position of the Government of the DPRK expounded in its statement of April 23, 1969, which firmly insisted that the U.S. government stop at once all its military provocations against the DPRK and withdraw all foreign troops from South Korea.

If the obdurate U.S. imperialists recklessly continue to encroach upon the DPRK, the heroic army and people of Korea will exercise their sacred right to self-defense and deal them more deserved punishing blows. The U.S. imperialists must bear full responsibility for the consequences of their acts.

As intimate brothers and companions-in-arms fighting against the common enemy — the U.S. imperialist aggressors — the Vietnamese people will, under any circumstances, staunchly support the fraternal Korean people in their effort to foil all schemes and war provocations of the U.S. imperialists, to defend the independence and sovereignty of the DPRK and achieve national peaceful reunification, thus contributing to the safeguarding of peace in Asia and the world.

Glorious victory will certainly belong to the heroic Korean people.

Okinawa Day (April 28)

Okinawa Should Be Immediately Returned to the Japanese People

THE continued occupation of Okinawa by the U.S. is intolerable since it constitutes a crime against the island's one million inhabitants and the entire Japanese people as well as against the Vietnamese people and the other Asian peoples. In execution of their policy to make Japan a prime jumping-off place for war provocations and aggressions in Asia, and under the terms of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty", the U.S. imperialists have set up in Okinawa 117 military bases — nearly one half of the total of U.S. military bases in Japan. Okinawa has become the biggest nuclear missile base in the Far East and an operational and logistical base for the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam. With the Sato government's abatement, B52 planes have been flown

from Okinawa for raids in North and South Viet Nam. Over the past 24 years the Japanese people have been persistently struggling for the abolition of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty", dismantlement of American military bases in Japan and withdrawal of U.S. occupationist troops from Japan.

Under pressure from this popular movement of the Japanese people, the United States staged in 1968 a "talk with the Japanese government on the return of Okinawa to Japan" farce and had to hold elections to Okinawa administrative organs. Chibyo Yara, candidate with democratic forces' backing, was returned executive chief of the Ryukyu administration. This was an initial success of the Japanese people in general.

However the U.S. and the Japanese reactionary clique are always plotting to make Okinawa a permanent American military base and preparing to repress the Japanese people's struggle even more brutally. The Japanese reactionary authorities' scheme is to extend the validity of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" and to amend the constitution so as to legalize the re-armament of Japan and restore militarism.

But the Japanese people are marching resolutely forward to achieve an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral Japan.

The Vietnamese people resolutely demand that the U.S. imperialists return Okinawa immediately and unconditionally to Japan. They strongly condemn the Sato government's collusion with the U.S. imperialists, its disserving the interests of the Japanese people and helping the U.S. aggressive war against Viet Nam. The valiant struggle of the Japanese people is a valuable support to the Vietnamese people's fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation. On the occasion of Okinawa Day, we extend to the Japanese people our heartfelt greetings of mutual solidarity and best wishes for success.

The medical service in the liberated zone has met the requirements in promptly treating wounds caused by U.S. bombs and shells, making ever greater contributions to the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

U.S. PLANES RAID NORTH VIETNAMESE SCHOOL

On April 23, 1969, U.S. aircraft rocketed the primary school of Khanh Thanh village in Yen Thanh district, Nghe An province. It was during class-time, and one of the schoolchildren was killed, and 18 others wounded.

Between April 14 and 19, U.S. aircraft also attacked many places in Minh Hoa and Le Thuy districts, Quang Binh province, and the Cuu

Nhuong rivermouth, Ha Tinh province, perpetrating many crimes against the local people.

These new crimes of the U.S. aggressors against North Viet Nam also constituted impudent provocations against world and U.S. public opinion.

They have been strongly protested by the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry.

Military Operations

(Continued from page 8)

of Area (east of Pleiku) and Buon Me Thuot were shelled, resulting in the destruction of 18 engines. Three days earlier, on April 3, a puppet company was wiped out at Buon Thung (10 km north of Buon Me Thuot), losing 80 men including all the commanding officers.

SAIGON SECTOR

A major annihilation raid was mounted by the PLAF on the night of April 25 against the encampment of a battalion of the U.S. 25th Inf. Div. at Ben Trai, 70 km west-northwest of Saigon. Tay Ninh province. The patriots put 300 GIs out of action, destroyed 1 tank, 7 heavy mortars, 10 blackhouses and 12 tent barracks and brought down 1 helicopter.

On April 18, in the same provinces, intercepting the enemy on a mission to relieve Vu Tong post, 80 km north-northwest of Saigon, the PLAF wiped out 120 GIs, blasted to pieces 12 tanks and armored cars and grounded 12 helicopters and planes.

Puppet rangers on April 26 were engaged at Giang Lon, 15 km west of Saigon, and one of their companies was decimated, losing 70 men.

In Saigon itself, on April 2, the guerrillas sank an enemy patrol boat berthed at a quay in the 7th district.

Follow-up reports on the major ambush on April 16 at Song Lay on Highway No. 1, 170 km east-northeast of Saigon (see our previous

Two years ago, said the battalion commander, or more exactly, in summer 1967, my unit passed by about 70 km North-West of Saigon — Ed.). We reached the border of the forest by noon. The sun beat down furiously and the trees had been completely stripped bare by a U.S. toxic chemical spraying. There remained only shriveled trunks and leafless branches. Amidst the devastated tree, we, however, could see several buds shooting forth. More than that, we met someone whose situation irresistibly called to mind an analogy with the renaissance vegetation.

I was bringing up the rear of the battalion when the forward column suddenly came to a halt. I ran up to the front ranks. What a surprise for me to hear someone weep as I approached the head of the column. Seeing me, Comrade Dang said, pointing his

think we can take you along in the midst of an operation now."

The lad cried even louder at these words. He pressed on his belly a bag that apparently contained all his belongings while before sobbing out:

"But I have no more village! I live in a strategic hamlet."

And he was about to burst into tears again. It took me a lot of trouble to get his story. And here what I gathered from his broken talk.

His name was Trong and he had only his mother left, a poor blind woman. The two lived in a strategic hamlet. Earlier there had been five of them: his father, mother, two elder sisters and himself. They earned their living by gathering latex in a plantation. By the end of 1965, a

After a brief consultation with other comrades in the command I decided to take the youngster.

And we had not to regret this decision. First, we detailed him to a scout group. Many comrades at first did not fully trust him but I personally had strong faith in him because the path he had taken was unassailable. It was the one that had led most of our men to the battlefield.

Never had I seen a scout with such a stamens as Trong who showed so well all trails all through the two years he served in the group. He who had defied hunger and other hardships staying two days in the forest waiting for us, now could remain hidden in a pond for a whole week to watch the movement of the enemy. During the B52 chemical battle, he sat perched whole day in a tall old tree, braving

A Teen-Age Volunteer

MEKONG

At Cho Hong, 3 km south-west of Saigon, the PLAF on April 19 overran an enemy ammunition compound, destroying 20 military vehicles and wiping out the guard platoon.

In Ben Tre province, on April 14, 4 of the 5 vessels of a flotilla were sent to the bottom or set on fire about 60 km south-southwest of Saigon and 170 adverse casualties were recorded in this action. On April 18, a company of puppet Division 7 was wiped out at Ben Chanh, more than 80 km south of Saigon, losing about 100 men.

In Vinh Long province, about 100 km southwest of Saigon, on April 11 and 14, the PLAF mounted 56 attacks against 22 enemy positions in the 2 cities of Vinh Long and Sa Dec, 4 sub-sector H's and many military posts. They took a total of 1,950 including a U.S. major and 5 puppet majors and captains, shot ablaze 10 M-113 armored personnel carriers, brought down 10 aircraft, and destroyed 8 military vehicles and a cannon.

In the southernmost province of Ca Mau, between April 4 and April 20, the PLAF killed or wounded 500 enemy men including 140 GIs, captured 100 agents of the enemy, sank or burnt 11 vessels, destroyed an armored car and downed one plane.

I seated him beside me and went on:

"If you want to join us, why did it occur to you to wait for us here? Won't it be simpler for you to the village committee? Why do you

finger ahead:

"A kid wants to come with us, Vinh! But he is too young. And there must be his father and his two sisters. His mother lost her sight as a result of a shrapnel wound. Since then mother and son had been in the direct destination."

His mother, he said, had promised to let him go as soon as he was old enough. But where to go she did not specify. At night, thinking that her son was asleep she would feel his body with every now and then to assess his exact size. But Trong was awake. He knew his mother was boiling with impatience to see her son off into action.

Then, one day she urged him to go and join the revolutionary armed forces. Trong had many times wailed in this corner of the forest. Each time he returned empty handed, his mother would tell him to persevere. This time, he had spent the night in the open air in the forest waiting for us. His mother had told him:

"You must go into the army to avenge our family and our people. If you come back all the time, you can never meet them!"

So, he stayed two days and two nights running in the jungle. His provision of cassava roots and water having run out, he had gone without food for a whole day before we came.

He nurtured an implacable hatred for the Yankees. It seemed that the U.S. shell, in knocking out the eyes of his mother, had given Trong a clearer sight that enabled him to detect the slightest movement of the enemy.

Since the beginning of this year Trong no longer used only his eyes to fight the Yanks. He wished to use also his hands. At his request we transferred him to a group of gomm bazookas. Ever since then he alone has blown up a dozen tanks, and M-113 armored personnel carriers. Quite recently, during our assault in the 3rd district of Saigon, a machine-gun nest of the enemy installed in a house in Dong Khanh boulevard blocked our advance. But Trong, by an extraordinary courageous deed in the most perilous circumstances, came up and fired a Bp shot with a rare accuracy that sent crumbling the floor on which the machine-gun was placed. Thanks to his timely action, we were able to resume our offensive.

That is how the hatred for the Yanks has turned a little boy into an elite fighter.

After ANH DUC (South Viet Nam)

News from LAOS

1,100th U.S. Aircraft downed in Laos

The patriotic armed forces on April 18 knocked down a T-28 aircraft over Samphat area, north of Vapi town (Lower Laos), bringing to 1,100 the total of U.S. aircraft lost in Laos so far, KPL reported.

Bac valley, were called into deserting the rightist ranks. KPL (Pathet Lao News Agency) reported.

Enemy defections in the area have become more frequent since the release of the patriots of the POWs captured in the Nam Bac battle (Jan. 1969) which has favorably impressed the rightist soldiers and their families in the province.

Over 300 Bandits Wiped Out in Phongsaly

THE regional armed forces in Phongsaly province, Upper Laos, in the first quarter of this year put out of action over 300 U.S.-fostered bandits annihilated among the newly liberated areas with the aim of rebuilding their bases and restoring the patriotic forces.

The patriots seized more than 100 firearms of various

kinds including dozens of mortars, recoilless guns and machineguns, seven radio transmitters and large quantities of other military equipment.

Public Health in Liberated Zone

ALTHOUGH the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings have been stepping up their "special war" against Laos and increasing their aerial bombardments, the public health service in the liberated zone has kept developing, said a KPL report.

By now all the provinces in the liberated zone have their hospitals. A network of medical installations has been set up with infirmaries in almost all districts and dispensaries in almost all villages.

Propagation of hygienic practices and prophylactics has been stepped up in almost all villages along with the popularization of health-preserving methods.

The training of medical workers has been pushed up. Apart from locally-run schools to train hospital attendants, the liberated zone has opened 4 schools to train middle-level physicians.

Production of medicaments, particularly from local materials, has been expanded.

The contingent of medical workers from elementary to high levels — mostly sons and daughters of working people — has recorded outstanding achievements.

Surgery — a novelty to Lao-tians not long ago — has now become an integral part of treatment in many hospitals where skull and other operations have been successfully performed.

The medical service in the liberated zone has met the requirements in promptly treating wounds caused by U.S. bombs and shells, making ever greater contributions to the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT



A major ammunition depot of the U.S. marines southwest of Da Nang air base blew up during a PLAF attack on April 27, 1969. Flames could be seen from a 50 kilometer distance.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

QUANG TRI - THUA THIEN AREA

ON April 22 the PLAF put nearly 100 GIs out of action 18 km northwest of Tan Thua Highway Nho between Dong Ha and Khe Sanh GPD reported. On April 23 and 24, they engaged the enemy in heavy fighting near Cu Dinh and northeast of Tan Lam, killing or wounding 150 GIs, capturing many others, and shooting down a helicopter. In this sector, guerrillas and regular troops of Cam Do and Gio Linh districts hit the enemy everywhere he was found and, between April 20 and April 25, put nearly 400 U.S. and puppet troops out of action, destroyed 11 vehicles including 8 tanks and armored cars, shot down or damaged 7 aircraft and sank 2 vessels.

In the Khe Sanh sector, where the enemy had launched a large-scale counter-offensive, the PLAF blotted out a U.S. armored camp at Lang Vay, 7 km west of the Khe Sanh town. After one hour's fighting, nearly 100 GIs casualties were listed and 23 tanks and armored cars destroyed.

On April 28, before dawn, 3 more enemy camps around Tan Con, the famous former "Khe Sanh base", were flattened. Well nigh 200 U.S. puppets were put out of action and 33 vehicles wrecked during these raids.

All told, in the Quang Tri area, South of the DMZ, between April 20 and April 28, the enemy lost nearly 950 men and 67 military vehicles.

In southern Quang Tri, a major operation launched by the Americans in mid-March cost them serious losses. On April 17, the raiders had to withdraw from Tam Tanh and A Doi, principal theatres of operation about 13 km south of Khe Sanh town. In a month, they lost 1,200 men, 12 armored cars, 8 cannons and 2 ammo and fuel depots

destroyed and 4 helicopters cut down.

Further southeast, in the Hue sector, nearly 400 enemy troops including 250 GIs were put out of action in different PLAF actions between April 18 and April 26.

DA NANG AREA

THE most spectacular coup was tactically levelling by PLAF ground troops of a huge U.S. ammo depot on the southwestern edge of the Da Nang air base on the night of April 26. The whole area was rocked by explosions which continued for many hours and paralysed the base's activity. Tens of thousands of tons of bombs and shells exploded, blasting hundreds of base buildings and causing many dead and wounded.

Ten days earlier, the PLAF had pounded several U.S. billeting areas in Da Nang city and some 60 adverse troops had been killed or wounded at a major fuel and chemicals depots turned into a gigantic mass of fire by the shells of the patriots.

On April 17, guerrillas of 4 villages of Dien Ban district, about 20 km south of Da Nang, knocked out 115 GIs and burnt an M118 armoured car.

Four enemy positions near Nong Son, 45 km south-southwest of Da Nang, were assailed and a company and several platoons of puppet troops wiped out, losing 150 men killed or wounded, many others taken prisoner and a large quantity of weapons and equipment.

On Clouds pass (Hoi Van), northwest of Da Nang, a military 13-vehicle convoy moving in the direction of Hue was completely destroyed along with an escort company of 41 GIs.

Further south in Quang Ngai province, the enemy, violently intercepted west and southeast of the provincial capital, took some 100

casualties on April 17.

In Binh Dinh province on the road from Qui Nhon to An Khe, in a new ambush on April 18, a U.S. convoy of 5 trucks loaded with military goods and escorted by 2 M41 tanks and 2 self-propelled cannons was completely destroyed, and all the GIs accompanying it were killed or wounded.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS

IN Kon Tum province, U.S. reconnaissance units were assaulted throughout April 24 at Hill #16, about 40 km northwest of the provincial capital, and lost 72 men killed or wounded.

Between Kontum and Pleiku, on April 26, a U.S. convoy ran into an ambush 24 km north of the last city. Fourteen vehicles including tanks and armored cars were destroyed, and 70 GIs put out of action. Three days later, the CP of a puppet ranger battalion 5 km north of Pleiku came under fire and 70 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

It was further reported that on April 6, the airfields

(Continued page 7)

SOUTH VIET NAM

WORKERS SWING INTO ACTION IN ENEMY-CONTROLLED AREAS

SCANTY wages, spiralling inflation and soaring prices are not the only hardships experienced by the working people in areas still under enemy control. Saigon rulers have taken advantage of every occasion to crack down on them, ban them from their trade, forbid strikes, and mount successive police operations against workers' quarters where hundreds of arrests have been made. Nguyen Van Giu, member, Truong Van Kham, adviser, and Nguyen Van Giot, chief secretary, of the "Federation of Free Trade Unions" in Saigon, have been apprehended during these raids. Nearly a month before May Day this year, the Saigon Administration prohibited various Saigon mass organizations, political parties and trade unions' May Day meetings and demonstrations.

For all its crimes, this puppet administration has failed to stamp out labour disturbances. These instead have been going on since the beginning of this year. More than 400 workers at Grall Hotel staged a 7-day strike (Jan. 7-14, 1969) for a wage increase and maternity allowances for women workers. Their action was supported by 118 trade unions in Saigon. In the same period, 3,000 Saigon leaders rebelled out in protest against the dismissal of a number of workers at Nha Kong quay. This was followed by a stoppage by over 3,000 workers employed by Air Viet Nam for year-end bonuses and a pay rise. This brought to a virtual standstill U.S. military airfields and ports, and finally authorities had to undertake to meet the workers' claims and end all repression and ill-treatment. It should be also recalled the persistent struggle put up by 700 workers belonging to the pedicab, Lambretta and bus drivers' Unions in Tam Ky (Quang Nam), and more than 1,000 Lambretta drivers in Saigon for the abolition of the Central Viet Nam Car Transport Company (controlled by the Saigon administration) and for freedom to work.

In addition, workers of hundreds of factories, big and small, have also militated for better pay, reduction of work hours and improvement of living conditions, including labour disputes at the Pan-America Airways service, the laundry run by the Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops, the Majestic Hotel, the power plant, the water supply works, Saigon and Cat Lai ports, the SIF-A match factory, the BGI brewery, etc....

Recently, on April 24, 5,000 Saigon dockers went on strike in protest against the arbitrary reduction of the amount of work by the American port authorities without prior notice as this move affected the workers' income.

Workers in South Vietnamese cities have been militating not only for economic and trade union interests. They have also taken an active part in the fight against US aggression for national salvation. They have joined in liquidating scoundrels and thugs in the streets and in workers' residential quarters and in disbanding the enemy-controlled civil self-defence organisations. Most typical was the struggle against civil self-defence waged by Dau Tieng plantation workers and by students and other labouring people in My Tho and Can Tho provinces and in many factories and workers' quarters in Saigon, Chu Lon and Gia Dinh. By large-scale sit-ins and even unauthorized strikes, the political drive against the US and its puppets in various workers' quarters has involved school pupils, students, intellectuals, national capitalists, and members of the puppet administration and army. Workers in enemy-controlled areas are giving a warm response to the May Day appeal issued by the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions by "re-solutely struggling for an end to the U.S. war of aggression, the unconditional U.S. troop withdrawal, the removal of the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huung puppet administration and the formation of a peace cabinet to conduct serious negotiations with the NLF".

Intellectuals in Occupied Cities Lash U.S.-Puppet Policies

A teach-in was held on April 19 and 20 at the college of Can Tho, a city under U.S.-puppet control, GPD reported.

The more than 300 participants, including intellectuals of the city, from Saigon and other places, elected their senators and high-ranking officials of the puppet administration, denounced the Thieu-Ky fascist puppet regime's downright repression

of peace advocates.

GPA quoted Nguyen Van Hao, Doctor of Economy, as saying that the economy in areas under U.S.-puppet control was an "imported economy of false prosperity", that "illiteracy has the hold on one-third of the population in the big cities, and on a half of the population in the (U.S.-puppet controlled) areas in general". "Social evils

are proliferating fast", he added.

GPA said the teach-in "attributed the misery of the people to the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war and the Thieu-Ky-Huung puppet administration's exploitation and put that 'if an end is to be put to the sufferings and mourning, independence, democracy, peace and ultimate national reunification must be achieved'."